

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 MC-02 ACDA-07 DHA-02
IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /093 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:GHAMILTON:LA
APPROVED BY AF/WESHAUFELE
AF/C:TRBUCHANAN(SUBS)
-----221815Z 075849 /43

O 221752Z APR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE - APRIL 22 - ZAIRE

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE NON-VERBATIM EXCERPTS ON ZAIRE FROM
THE PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE APRIL 22.

2. Q: ARE WE GOING TO TRANSFER AMERICAN BATTLE TANKS IF
SO, WHY?

3.A: NO. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT THAT. THE NEWS
STORIES THAT HAVE COME OUT RECENTLY ABOUT THE POSSIBLE SALE
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OF TANKS TO ZAIRE ARE A RESULT OF A STUDY THAT WAS DONE A
YEAR OR SO AGO BEFORE I BECAME PRESIDENT. THIS QUESTION
HAS NEVER COME TO MY ATTENTION SINCE I'VE BEEN IN OFFICE
UNTIL THIS MORNING. I'VE MADE NO DECISION ABOUT SENDING
TANKS TO ZAIRE AND I THINK IT'S HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT I
WOULD ADVOCATE SUCH A SALE.

3. Q: SENATOR CLARK HAS DESCRIBED ZAIRE AS A MILITARY
DICTATORSHIP. HOW CAN YOU REGARD THIS AS A DEFENDER OF
HUMAN RIGHTS?

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A: I'VE NEVER DEFINED ZAIRE AS A DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS.
I KNOW THAT THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS IN ZAIRE WITH HUMAN
RIGHTS AS THERE ARE HERE AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES. BUT
OUR FRIENDSHIP AND AID HISTORICALLY FOR ZAIRE HAS NOT
BEEN PREDICATED ON THEIR PERFECTION IN DEALING WITH
HUMAN RIGHTS.

I THINK, AS YOU KNOW, OUR MILITARY AID FOR ZAIRE
HAS BEEN VERY MODEST. WE'VE OBSERVED SOME STABILIZING
OF THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF ZAIRE LATELY...
AND I THINK OUR POLICY IN SPITE OF THE INVASION FROM
ANGOLA BY THE KATANGANS, HAS BEEN COMPATIBLE WITH OUR
PAST POLICIES.

4. Q: ARE THERE CUBANS THERE?

A: I CAN'T CERTIFY TO THIS BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE
OBSERVERS ALL OVER THE SHABA REGION. OUR BEST INFORMATION
IS THAT THE KATANGANS HAVE BEEN TRAINED WITHIN ANGOLA
BY CUBANS. WE HAVE NO DIRECT EVIDENCE AT ALL THAT THERE
ARE CUBANS WITHIN ZAIRE.
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Message Attributes

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